





I SEE...

BUT...
WOULDN'T THAT MEAN
THE WHOLE
ELECTION IS
POINLESS
THEN?



SO LONG
AS THERE
AREN'T ANY
OTHER
PATRICIANS
RUNNING FOR
CONSULSHIP,
AEMIILIUS
SHOULD
MAKE IT IN.

IT'S A
COMMON
PRACTICE TO
CHOOSE ONE
CONSUL FROM
THE PLEBS,
AND THE OTHER
FROM THE
PATRICIANS.



CAN
AFFECT
HOW MUCH
POWER HE
HAS UPON
BEING MADE
CONSUL.

SINCE THE
AMOUNT OF
SUPPORT A
CANDIDATE
IS ABLE TO
GARNER
DURING THE
ELECTION

NOT
QUITE...



TO EMERGE
VICTORIOUS,
WE MUST
ENDURE...

...AND IT'S
NOT LIKE
HE HAS A
SILVER
TONGUE
EITHER...

HE'S NOT
EXACTLY
OVERFLOWING
WITH
CHARISMA...

WAIT,
THEN ISN'T
AEMIILIUS
SCREWED
EITHER
WAY?



IT TAKES ONLY THE SLIGHTEST HESITATION FOR A FAVOURABLE OPPORTUNITY TO SLIP PAST US.

THAT'S RIGHT! HOW LONG DO YOU INTEND TO KEEP US WAITING!?



ENDURE? PLEASE, DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH.

DO YOU TRULY THINK WE CAN AFFORD TO TAKE THINGS AT SUCH A LEISURELY PACE?

IN FACT, THE GAULS HAVE BEGUN ANOTHER UPRISING TO THE NORTH.



ER... THAT'S...



YEAH...

COME ON, SCIPIO!



AHHH I'VE HAD ENOUGH, C'MON, SCIPIO, I COULD DO WITH A DRINK OR TWO TO WASH AWAY THIS SORRY SIGHT.



OH IT
HURTS
DOES
IT?

THAT
HURTS!
STOP
IT!



IF YOUR
FATHER
IS THE
CARTHAGIAN'S
DOG...

THEN WHAT
DOES THAT
MAKE YOU?
HANNIBAL'S
WHORE!?

THIS PAIN
IS NOTHING
COMPARED
TO WHAT
MY DEAD
HUSBAND
WENT
THROUGH!

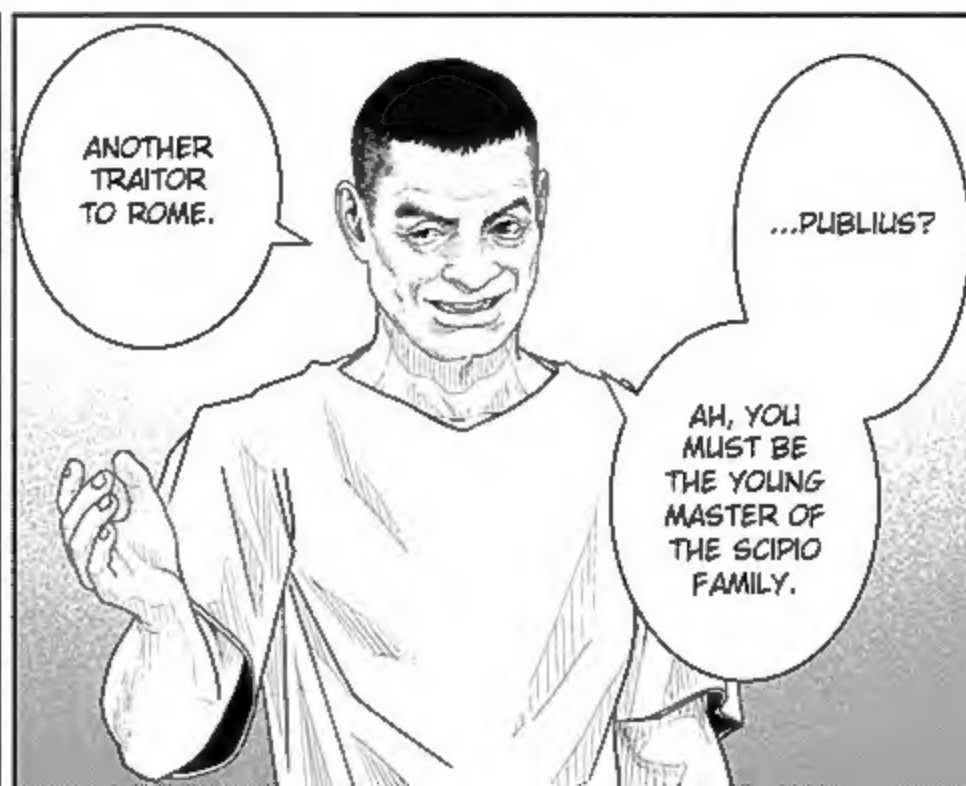
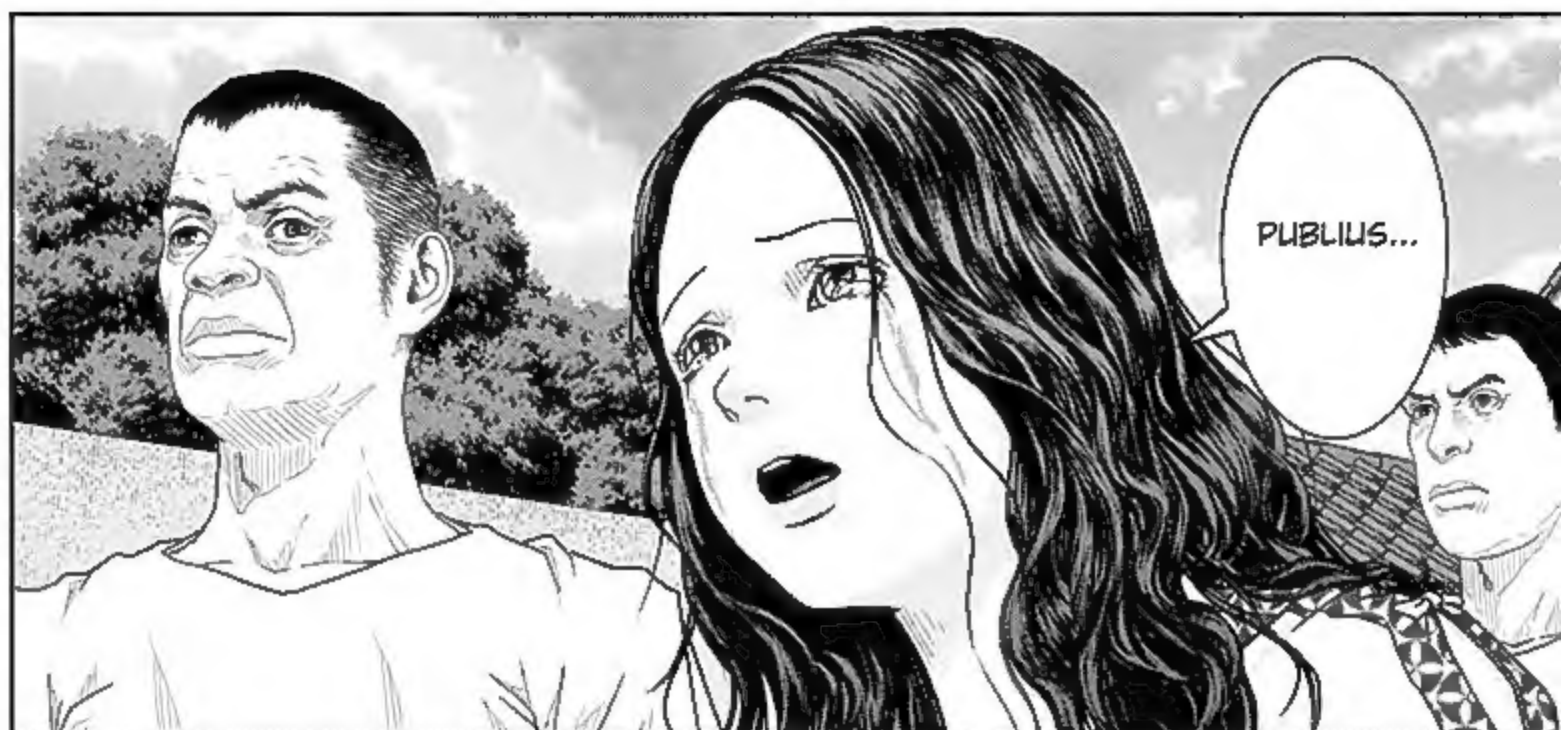


STOP!
WHAT
IS THE
MEANING
OF
THIS!?

YOU'RE
PLANNING
TO BETRAY
ROME IN
EXCHANGE
FOR
RICHES,
AREN'T
YOU!?

EVERY
SINGLE
ONE OF
YOU
FILTHY
PATRI-
CIANS







WHY ARE YOU TRYING TO DRIVE A WEDGE BETWEEN-

WITH ROME'S VERY EXISTENCE AT RISK,

THIS IS A TIME WHEN BOTH PATRICIANS AND PLEBS MUST COME TOGETHER AS ONE UNITED PEOPLE.



ALMOST AS IF HE'S TAKING IT SO SLOW THAT IT BENEFITS HANNIBAL, DON'T YOU THINK?



YOUR OLD MAN WAS SENT OFF TO DEAL WITH IBERIA, WASN'T HE?



WAS IT WOMEN? MONEY? WHAT COULD IT BE, HUH?



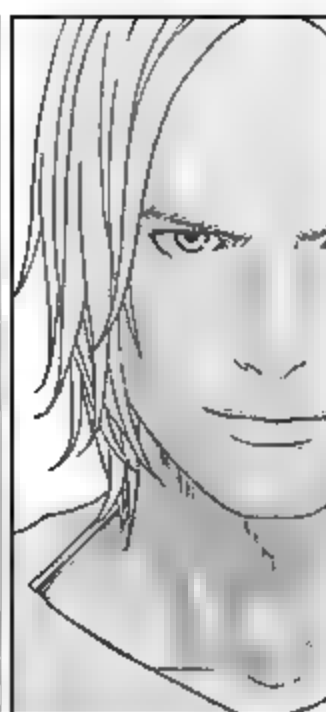
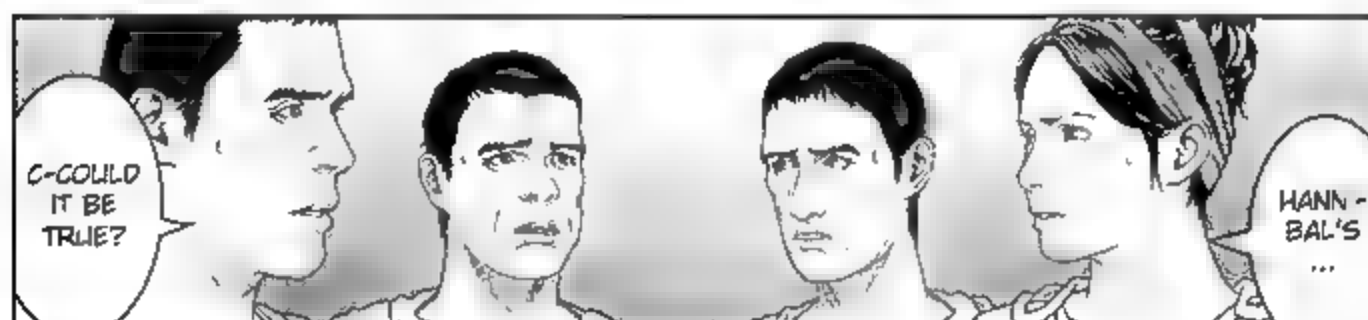
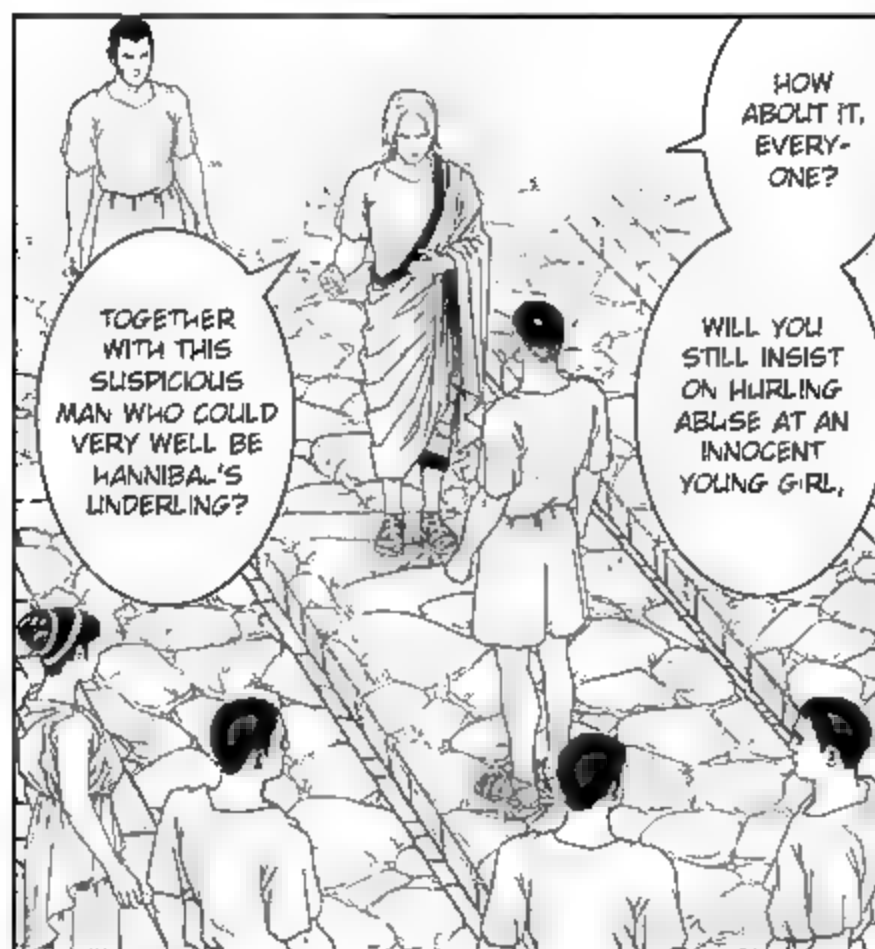
CLADDING LIES WITH THE SEMBLANCE OF TRUTH AND BRAZENLY LOOSING THEM INTO THE AIR.

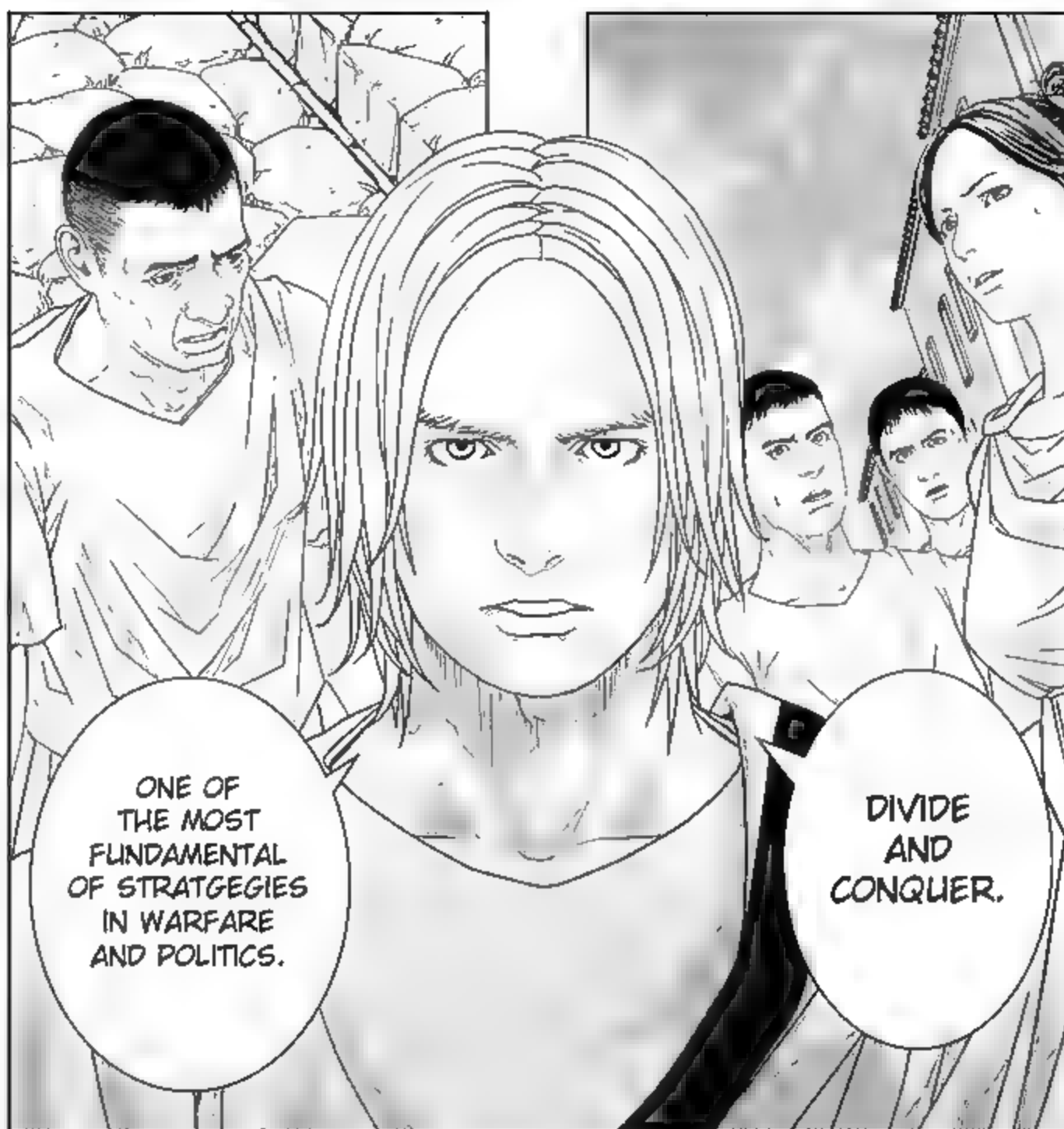


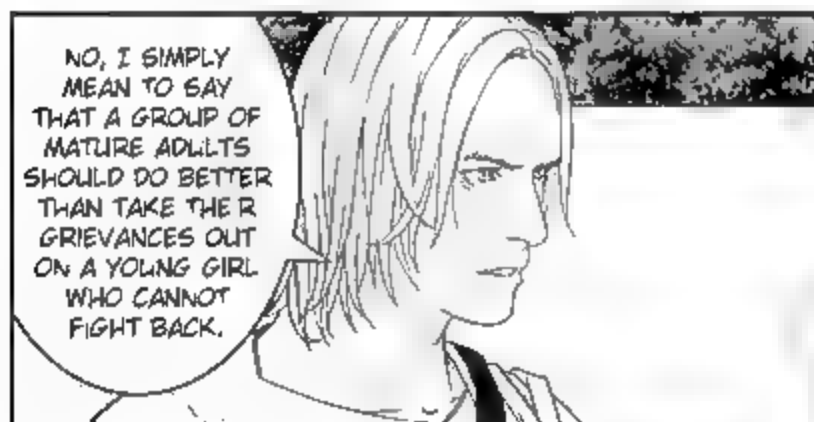
IT IS EVER IN TIMES OF IGNORANCE THAT AGITATORS SPEAK OUT WITH VOICES LINED WITH GOLD...

DEAR ME...













THANK YOU,
PUBLIUS...



HOW
DID THIS
HAPPEN?
...



HMMM...

WHAT'S
WITH THE
WAY SHE'S
LOOKING
AT HIM...



NONE OF
THEM ARE
WILLING TO
LISTEN TO
ANYTHING I SAY.
THEY'RE ALL
OUT OF THEIR
MINDS...



IT'S BEEN
LIKE THIS
EVER SINCE
FATHER
STARTED
RUNNING FOR
CONSUL.

I DON'T
KNOW
EITHER...



FATHER IS
DOING THE
RIGHT THING,
ISN'T HE!?

IT'S
UNTHINKABLE
THAT FATHER
WOULD BE
WILLING TO
SELL OUT
ROME!



EH?...

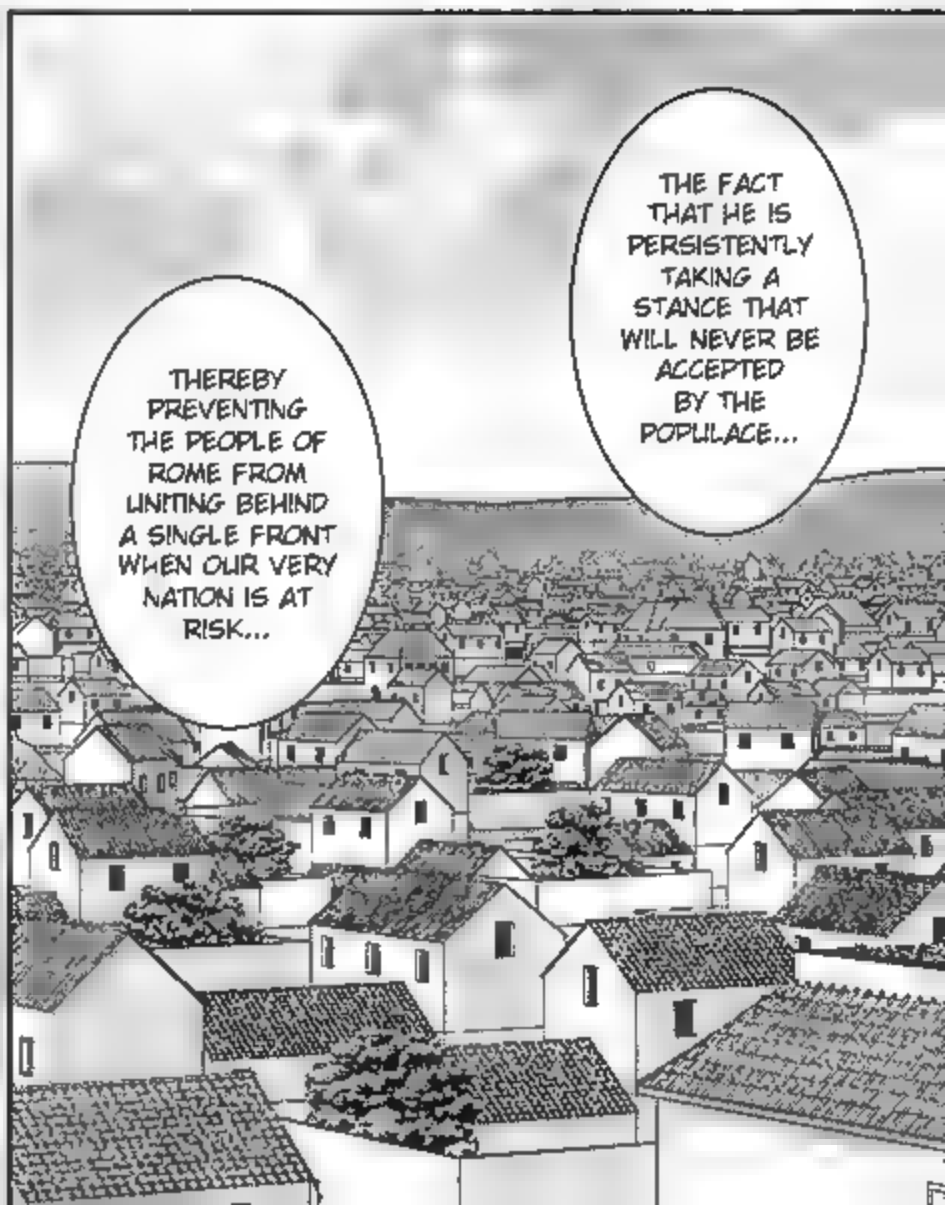
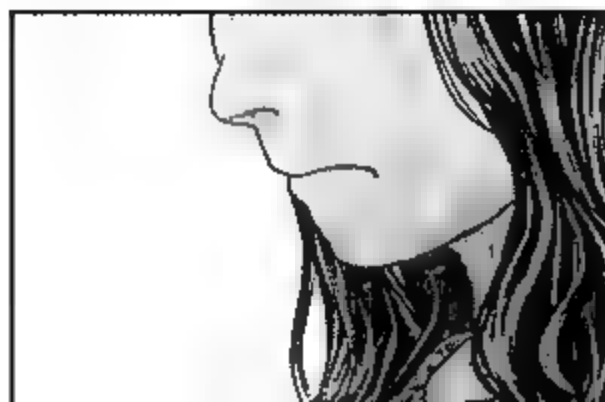


...I CAN'T
SAY.



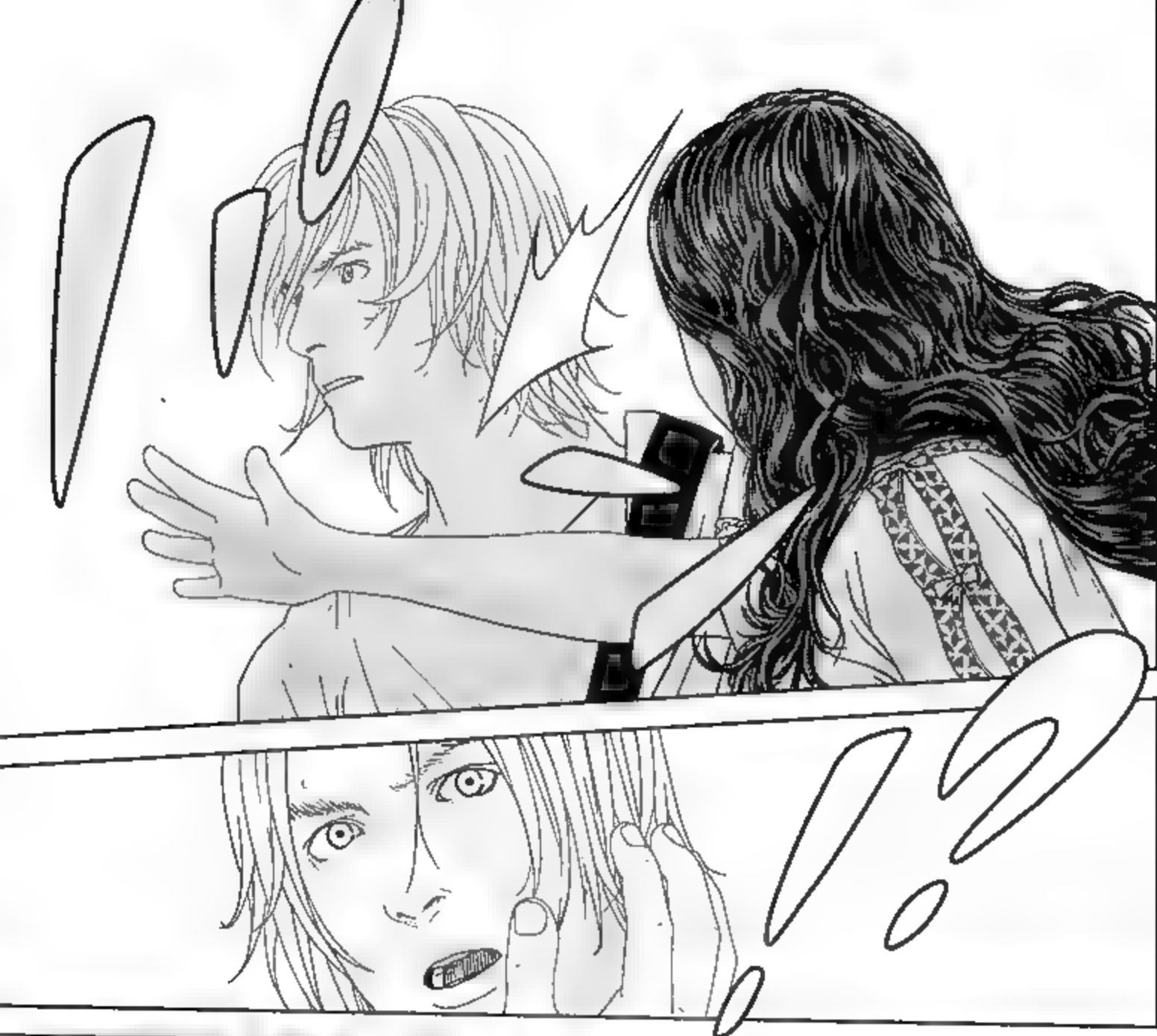
HE ISN'T
QUITE IN
THE RIGHT,
SO TO
SPEAK...

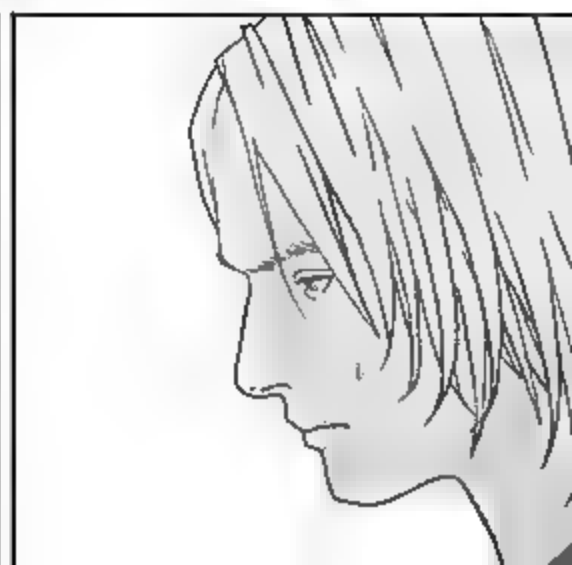
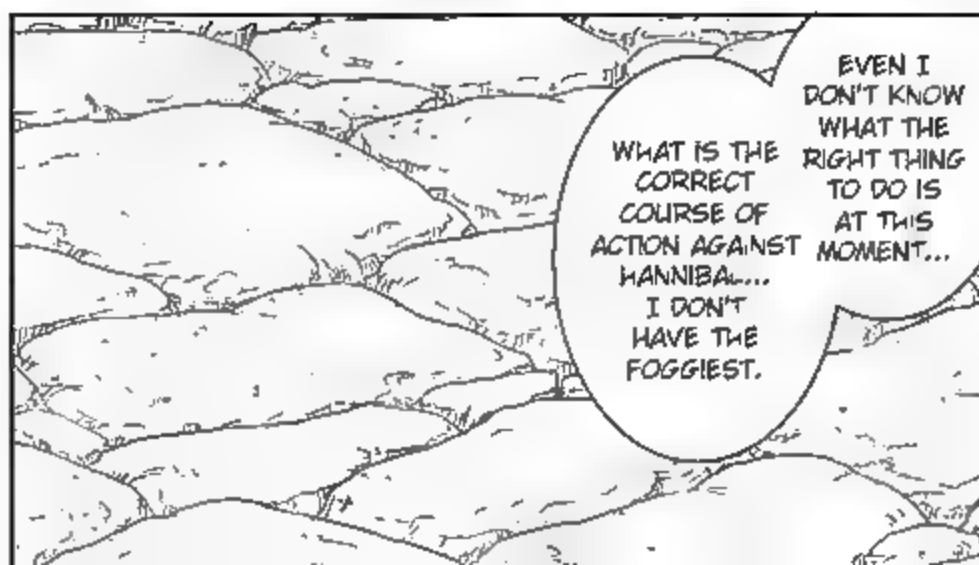
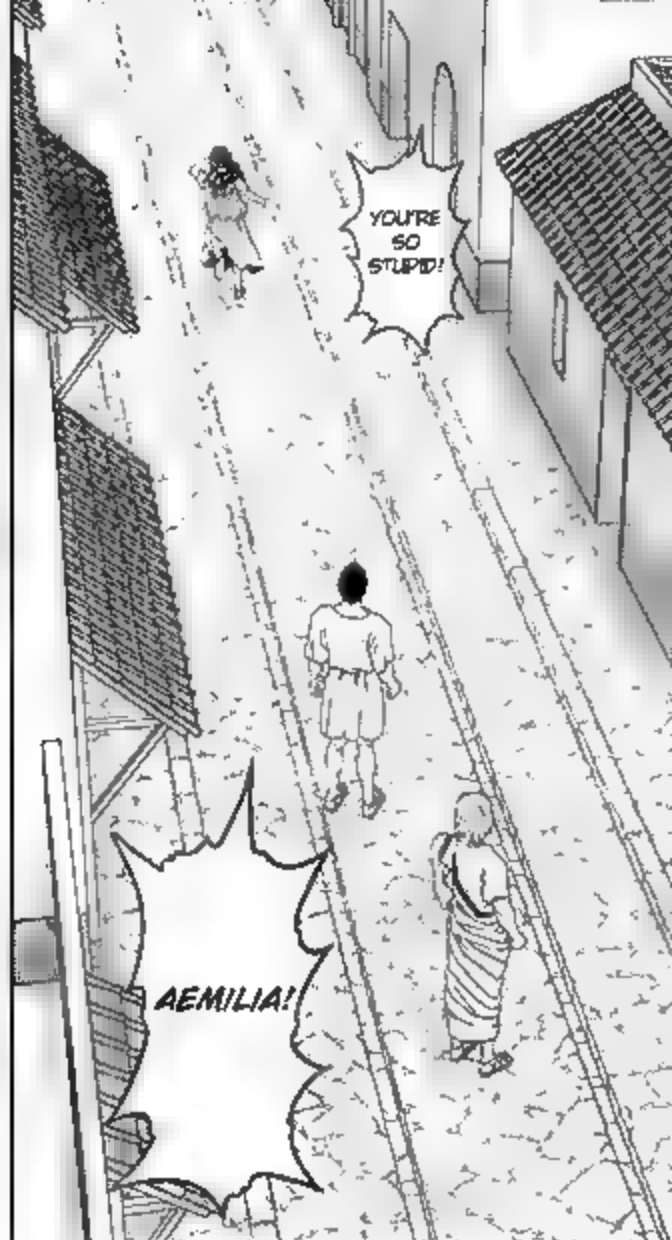
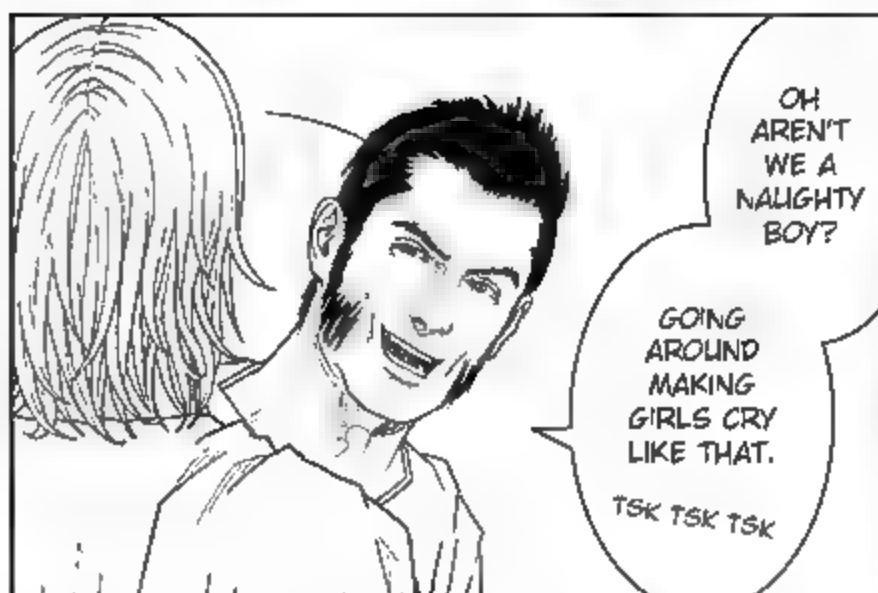
IT COULD
PERHAPS
BE VIEWED
THAT...

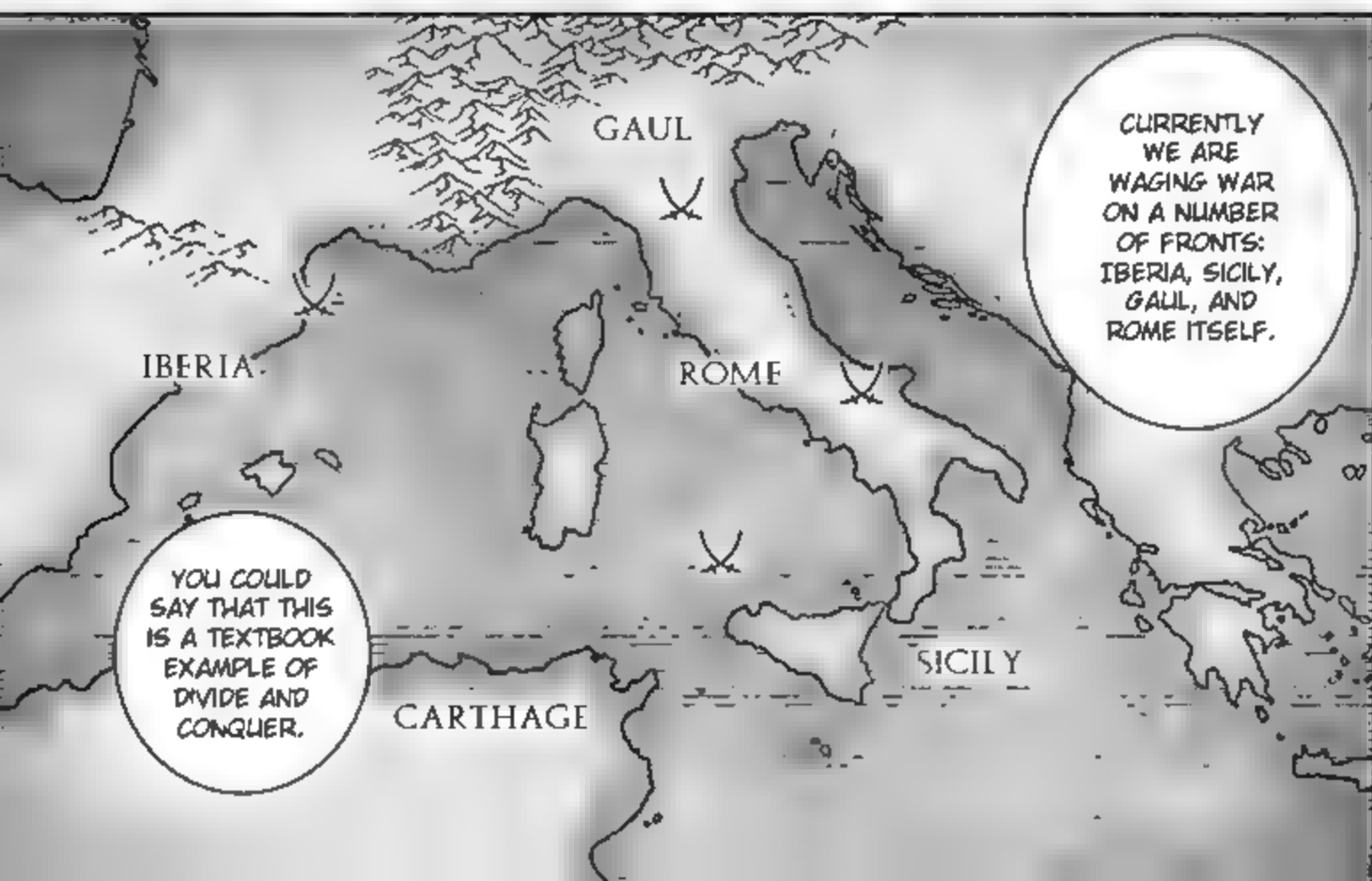


THEREBY
PREVENTING
THE PEOPLE OF
ROME FROM
UNITING BEHIND
A SINGLE FRONT
WHEN OUR VERY
NATION IS AT
RISK...

THE FACT
THAT HE IS
PERSISTENTLY
TAKING A
STANCE THAT
WILL NEVER BE
ACCEPTED
BY THE
POPLULACE...



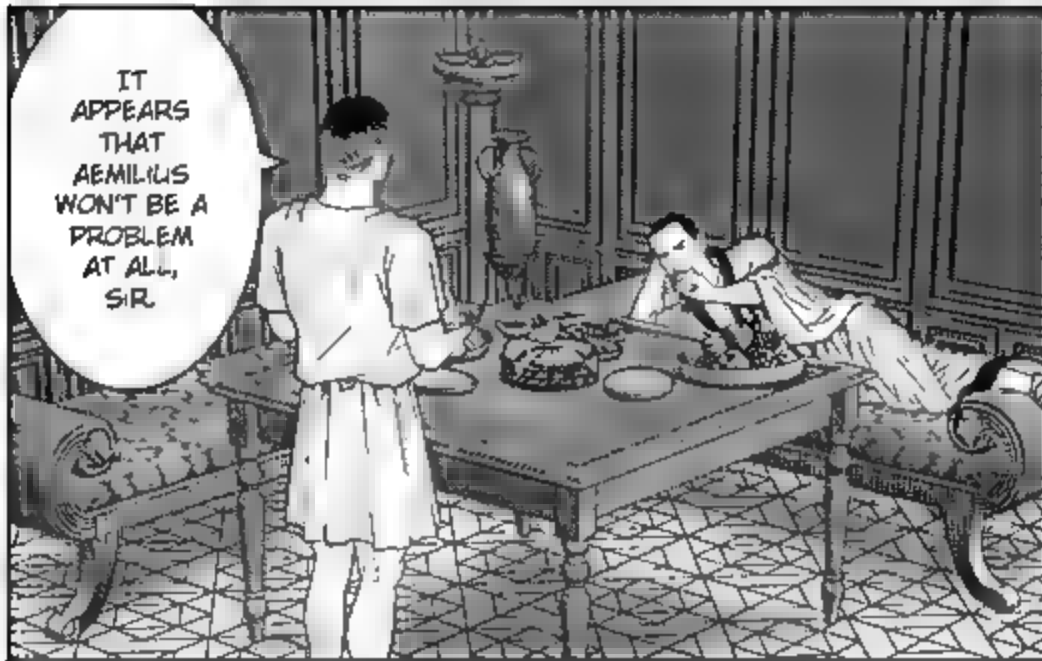












IT
APPEARS
THAT
AEMIILIUS
WON'T BE A
PROBLEM
AT ALL,
SIR.



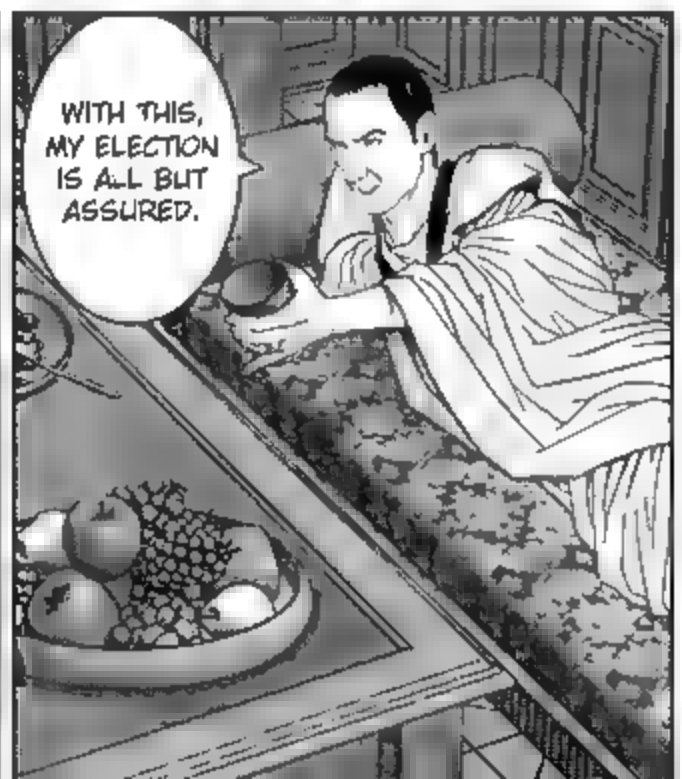
HE IS
SCARCELY
WORTH OUR
ATTENTION.
IN ANY CASE,
THE FACT THAT
THERE IS NO
OTHER PLEB
CANDIDATE
RUNNING AGAINST
ME IS A FAR
GREATER
BOON.

MMM,
TO THINK
FABIUS
WOULD HAVE
TAKEN IN
SUCH AN
INCOMPETENT
FOOL.



IT
WOULD
NOT BE
WISE TO
IGNORE
HIM.

NONETHELESS,
SIR, THERE
IS STILL THE
EXISTENCE OF
FABIUS BEHIND
AEMIILIUS.



WITH THIS,
MY ELECTION
IS ALL BUT
ASSURED.



DO YOU
NOT REQUIRE
SOME MANNER
OF IDEA OR
STRATEGY TO
PITCH TO THE
PEOPLE?

AND IF
YOU WISH
TO ASSURE
YOURSELF OF
THE PEOPLE'S
POPULARITY
AND SUPPORT
OVER
AEMILIUS,



YOU
POSE
VERY GOOD
QUESTIONS,
ALLIUS.



NOT ONLY
THAT, YOU
WILL ALSO
NEED TO
DEAL WITH
HANNIBAL.

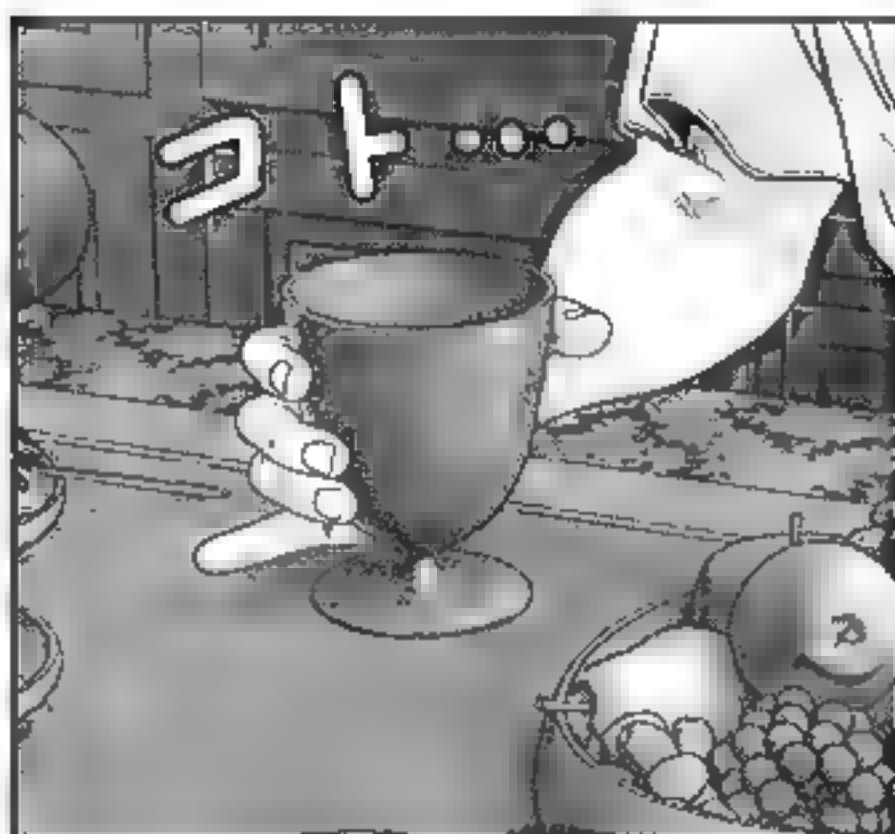
TRULY
THIS IS A
PROBLEM
THAT I SEE
NO EASY
SOLUTION
TO...

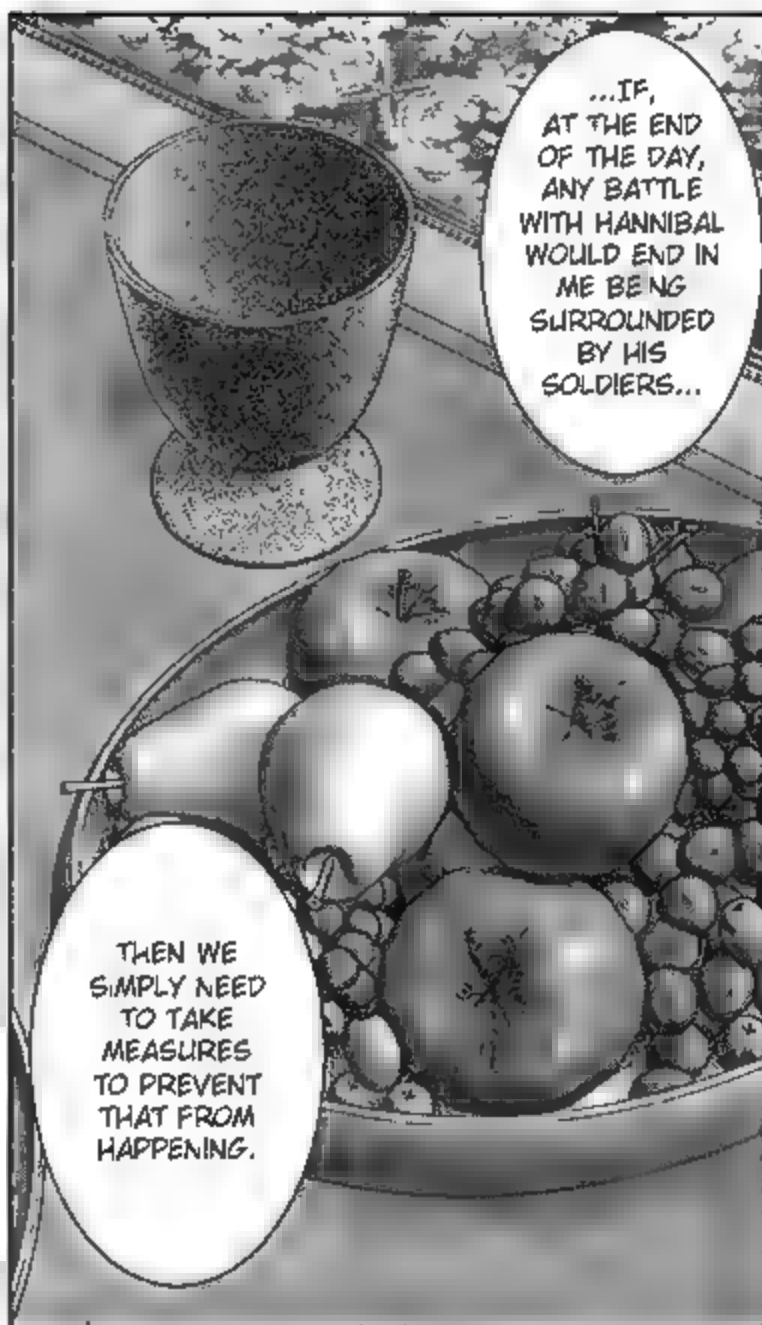


ULTIMATELY,
THE MASSES
ARE MERELY A
GATHERING OF
DIMWITS, LIMITED
ONLY BY THEIR
SHARED
IGNORANCE.

BUT
DID YOU
KNOW?







86 000 MEN,
A FORCE TWICE
THE SIZE OF
OUR USUAL
COMPOSITION;
THAT IS WHAT
WE WILL CRUSH
HANNIBAL WITH.



ア

ド・アストラ4巻ご購入ありがとうございます。うございます。今回はあとがきで将棋のコンピュータソフトとの五番勝負、電王戦の感想を書こうかと思えます。

いずれも大熱戦で面白かったのですが、中でも興味深かったのはプロ棋士の一勝二敗で後のない状況で迎えた第四局、ベテラン棋士・「塚田九段」対「プエラ」戦でした。

ここまで中終盤で鬼神の如き強さを見せていたソフトは、第四局でもその力を發揮し塚田九段は敗勢に追い込まれました。そこで塚田九段は方針転換し、入玉から持将棋、引き分けを狙う作戦に出たのです。※互いの玉が相手陣内に入る（入玉する）と駒の動きの性質上、詰ますのが難しくなります。そうなった時には自駒をポイント換算し、双方が24点となると持将棋、引き分けとするルールなのです。

塚田九段はソフトという強者相手に正面からの対決を避け、味方の駒を犠牲にしながら詰まない位置へ玉を逃していきます。そして駒数によるポイントで勝敗の決まる持将棋を想定して、相手の弱い小駒を攻撃していきます。

ですがプロ棋士がコンピュータ相手にこういう将棋を指すことは不名誉なことなのです。ニコ生のコメントには投了しろと言葉が流れ、解説の木村八段も投げやりな感じになっていきました。

対局室の塚田九段は外野の動きはわからないのですが、反応は想像出来たと思います。

それでも構わず指し手を進め、合間に紅潮した顔で1、2、3、4…と点数の指差し確認をしています。

その様子がまた嘲笑を誘い、これまで続いていた大決戦の張り詰めた空気は弛緩し、完全に白けた状態になってしまいました。

そうこうしてる間に塚田九段が持将棋、引き分けに持ち込むことに成功したのです。と言っても持将棋に未対応のソフトが、一変してアホな動きをするその隙を突いての引き分けというなんともピリツとしない終局でした。

：終局後、視聴者は素直に祝福してよいものか複雑な心境だったのか、微妙なコメントが流れました。

しかし直後、立会人が塚田九段に対局を振り返っての質問をした時、視聴者は我に返ることになります。



塚田九段が声を詰まらせ男泣きしたので
す。五番勝負で二敗してる中で塚田九段
が負ければ最終局前にプロ棋士の負け越
しが決まってしまう状況、興行的にも、
プロ棋士の未来のためにもここで負ける
わけにはいかなかったのです。塚田九段
は不名誉も全部背負う覚悟を持ってこの
戦いに挑んだわけです。

プロ棋士としてこの戦い方には賛否両論
ありますが、決して馬鹿にすべき戦いで
ないことは確かです。

自分はこの塚田九段の戦いにファビウス
の持久戦略を見ました。

歯が立たぬハンニバルとの戦いを避け、
味方を犠牲にしながらもハンニバルの率
いる小部隊を襲い削って、敵を弱体化さ
せる。ファビウスの戦いそのものです。

不名誉だと罵られながらもローマのため
に信じる策を貫こうとしたファビウスが
テルマエ・ローマエよろしく現代日本にやっ
て来たら塚田九段と意気投合できるので
はないでしょうか。

一人毅然として指揮を執っていたファビ
ウスも胸の内は大変苦しかったらうと思
います。

…とか自分はわかってました的なことを
書きましたが、実際は塚田九段の真剣な
指差し確認を笑ってしまってた一人なの
で、仮に自分が当時のローマ市民であつ
ても直情的にファビウスを野次るモブの
一人だったでしょう。自分の小物っぷり
が嫌になります。

さて次巻はそんなファビウスの思いも虚
しく、ローマは大勝負に出ることになり
ます。

読者にはご存知の方も多いことでしょう。
第二次ポエニ戦争前半戦のハイライト、
カンナエの戦いです。



Intermission

A MUCH EARLIER TIME:
BACK DURING THE
CROSSING OF THE ALPS.

DON'T
BE STUPID,
WHAT WOULD
WE DO
ABOUT THE
HORSES AND
ELEPHANTS?

ARE WE
GOING
TO CLIMB
OVER IT?

AFTER
ALL THAT
TREKKING
FROM IBERIA,
NOW THIS?...

WHAT THE
HECK IS WITH
THIS ROCK...
HOW ARE WE
MEANT TO
PASS THIS?...

YOU'RE
KIDDING ME
RIGHT?...

HOW MANY
MEN DO YOU
THINK WE'VE
ALREADY LOST
IN THIS
BLASTED
SNOW...

DON'T
TELL ME
WE'RE GOING
TO TURN BACK
AND LOOK FOR
ANOTHER
PATH?...



THE TROOPS
ARE STARTING
TO MUTTER
AMONGST
THEMSELVES
...

HANNIBAL,
DO YOU
PERHAPS
HAVE ANY
GOOD
IDEAS?...

N-NO!
THIS WASN'T
HERE WHEN
I CAME
THROUGH
LAST TIME!

WHY YOU
LITTLE!
THIS IS
ALL YOUR
FAULT!



...IN
THAT CASE,
BRING ME
THE WINE AND
GATHER UP
SOME
KINDLING.

YES,
THAT'S
RIGHT
...

I DO
BELIEVE THE
MEN HAVE BEEN
COMPLAINING
RECENTLY OF
HOW THE WINE
HAS TURNED
SOUR AND IS
UNPALATABLE?



AHHH!
THAT'S IT!
END OF
THE ROAD!
EVERYONE
BACK TO
YOUR
HOMES!

WHAT'S
HE GOING
TO DO
WITH
THAT?...

DON'T
TELL ME...
HE'S GOING
TO ASK THE
GODS?



THIS
SHOULD BE
ENOUGH.



BE QUIET
AND WATCH,
MAHARBAL.

AHHHH
LORD BAAL,
OR MOTHER
TANIT, I
DON'T CARE
WHO...

PLEASE,
SOMEONE,
ANYONE, DO
SOMETHING
ABOUT THIS
ROCK!





WOW!
AWE-
SOME!



FOR NOTHING
STANDS A
CHANCE AGAINST
MY INTELLECT,
ALL SHALL BE
CRUSHED UNDER
OUR HEELS.

REMEMBER
THIS WELL.

FROM THIS
POINT ON,
NO MATTER
HOW POWERFUL
A FOE WE FACE,
NONE SHALL
BAR OUR
WAY.



H-HOW
WOULD I
KNOW!?
DON'T
ASK
ME!

H-H-HOW
DID HE
DO IT?!

S-SO
COOL...

初出 ウルトラジャンプ 2012年12月号～ 2013年5月号掲載分収録

Staff (アシスタント五十音順)

あやたさん

神戸さん

なぎさん

望月さん

●

編集

山内 智

●

単行本編集

小林 潤

●

装丁

成見 紀子

To be continued....